

~~TOP SECRET~~

THE JOINT STAFF

THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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2 MAR 1966

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subject: Military Support of Reconnaissance Operations

*See note attached*

1. A conference was convened at the Joint Reconnaissance Center, OJCS, on 19 January 1966 to establish procedures to be utilized by U.S. government agencies, when reconnaissance operations are to be conducted, by said agencies, which require support or the use of resources of a unified or specified command. Representatives from CIA, OJCS, and USAF were in attendance. See Attachment No. 1.

2. The responsibility for coordinating U.S. military operational support of reconnaissance operations of other government agencies is a function of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Within the Organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Deputy Director for Reconnaissance, J-3, has been designated as the point of contact for other government agencies conducting reconnaissance operations which require operational military support.

3. Reconnaissance operations conducted by government agencies, other than the Department of Defense, are extremely sensitive in nature and require that mission security be afforded maximum protection. To this end, only the specified secure communications systems agreed upon will be utilized in the transmission of the necessary messages and only a minimum number of personnel will be exposed to the operation.

4. The Deputy Director for Reconnaissance, J-3, OJCS, will, upon receipt of notification that a mission is being planned by a government agency, ascertain that there is no conflict between said mission and any of the military reconnaissance flights. If such conflict does exist, the appropriate mission director will be notified and steps will be initiated to resolve the conflict. The term conflict includes flight path, altitude, enemy reaction, etc.

NRO and JCS review(s) completed.

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5. The Joint Chiefs of Staff will make the initial notification to the commanders of the unified and specified commands concerned that a reconnaissance mission requiring their support or use of their resources is being planned and any known specific support requirements.

6. Support Requirements

Some of the specific support requirements are:

- a. Suppression of friendly radar reporting.
- b. Suppression of friendly fighter intercept.
- c. Other operational support as required.

7. Communications.

a. The secure communications system agreed to by CIA and JCS (JRC) will be used for the interchange of mission information between the CIA and JCS (JRC). Distribution of operational messages between CIA and JCS (JRC) will be as mutually agreed between the two agencies and controlled by the originator and addressee.

b. Sample messages of notification to the CINCs involved were coordinated with the mission directors to ascertain completeness and proper format. Only the specified secure communications systems will be utilized. Commanders of unified and specified commands concerned will be queried to ascertain if they desire to add as addressees any subordinate commands and upon their request said subordinate commands will be added to the notification message.

c. Additional addressees on the notification message to the CINC concerned will be as mutually agreed by the JCS and CIA.

8. After notifying the command concerned the JCS (JRC) will monitor the mission from the information received from the mission operations center.

9. Logistical support, such as airlift, etc., will continue to be handled as in the past.

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NRO

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Director of Reconnaissance, CIA

RALPH D. STEAKLEY  
Colonel, USAF  
Deputy Director for  
Reconnaissance, OJCS

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Attachment to

2 Mar '66

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Re Para 1.: Attachment No. 1 referred to contains list of names  
of those present formulating [ ] They  
were as follows:

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JRC

Colonel Steakley  
Captain Grimes  
Colonel Felices  
Captain Cullen  
Lt. Colonel Smith

CIA

Brig General Ledford

CINPAC

Lt. Col Hays

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AFRDR

Colonel Saunders

AFXOPR

Major Harden

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8 March 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: JRC/CIA Agreement on Reconnaissance Notifications

1. This subject was discussed in detail with Col. Felices, JRC, in connection with detailed procedures with particular reference to the OXCART program.

2. The only action contemplated by JRC in connection with the OXCART program and BLACK SHIELD is the notification of CINCPAC. Subject notification is, in fact, a part of the procedures which we have established for OXCART.

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3. JRC maintains a book covering the procedures outlined for each program. Detailed procedures for IDEALIST and OXCART have been developed to satisfy the peculiar needs of each program. It is not intended that the procedures will change as a result of the subject agreement except as it pertains to the deletion of AFXOPR as the action Agency and the addition of JRC as the action Agency. At the time OXCART is actually deployed, and if it is deemed necessary, an additional agreement can be placed in the file reflecting the above position.

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Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

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D/FA/OSA/ (8 Mar 66)

Distribution:

- 1 - D/SA
- 2 - OXC/OSA
- 3 - IDEA/OSA
- 4 - SAS/OSA
- 5 - D/FA/OSA
- 6 - RB/OSA

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

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